

Companies report debris removal progress

To expedite debris removal after a successful trial run, LDEQ has extended permission for night hauling from the North Sherwood Forest temporary debris staging site for Ronaldson Field Landfill. Waste haulers under contract to DRC Emergency Services use the site to deposit loads of debris during the day where it can be sorted and moved later to the permanent landfill.

“The addition of the staging site has sped up operations considerably,” LDEQ Secretary Dr. Chuck Carr Brown said. “The company estimates efficiency improved by 66 percent since the site opened. We are trying to do anything we can do to speed up the removal process in a safe and environmentally protective manner. The magnitude of this job is mind boggling.”

Officials with DRC said Wednesday that East Baton Rouge debris removal is about 35 percent complete but due to variables declined to give an estimate for the final completion of the job. The company is also working in Lafayette, where the job is 70 percent complete; Tangipahoa Parish, where the job is 90 percent complete; Ascension Parish, where the job 50 percent complete; St. Martin Parish, where the job is 80 percent complete; Iberville Parish, where the job is 70 percent complete; and the city of Baker, where the job is 85 percent complete.



Debris removal operations on Bellfort Drive, near Old Hammond Highway in East Baton Rouge Parish

Ceres, the company handling debris removal in Livingston Parish, Denham Springs and Zachary, estimates a 40 percent completion on the removal job in Denham Springs, company officials said. Ceres official Matt Sharpe said the job in Denham Springs should be complete within 60 days. The company also estimates a 95 percent completion of debris removal in the city of Zachary, Sharpe said, and estimates a 30 percent completion in Livingston Parish.

In the city of Central, Crowder Gulf is handling the debris removal. Officials with the company said the process is about 55 percent finished, but do not have an estimated completion date.

Brown said many small businesses had expressed concern that FEMA will not fund debris removal from businesses. “That’s not the case,” Brown said. “Louisiana received FEMA authorization to remove debris from public right of ways in front of businesses.”

“It’s a public safety issue,” Brown said. The service is limited to the first pass, however. Brown said businesses which have debris piled in their parking lots could be eligible for the service if the business applies to their local parish government for removal. It is important for homeowners to be aware that debris pickup will be from the public right of way and that debris further into the property may have to be moved to that area for pickup.

For information on how to sort your debris, go to <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/portals/0/news/pdf/debris.pdf>.